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1-1-2003

# YM 510 Foundations of Youth Ministry

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### Recommended Citation

Musick, Helen, "YM 510 Foundations of Youth Ministry" (2003). *Syllabi*. Book 2048.  
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## YM510 Foundations of Youth Ministry

Helen Musick  
Instructor of Youth Ministry

### Glad You're Going to Be a Part of the Team!

I am really excited to welcome you to this particular ExL course. Whether this is your first time to experience a distance learning class or you have several courses under your belt, I am confident that our experience will be profitable on many levels.

I have referred to our relationship as a **team**. That's exactly what we will grow to be. I want to encourage you from the very beginning to think of me as one of the players, a co-learner with you. From time to time I will be "calling the play" but not from the sidelines, I want to be in the huddle with you.

I have prepared a video for you with several different lectures. I will instruct you as to when and where you will use and view these. Go easy on me when it comes to my video teaching – I'd love to have you face to face and field your questions but we will have to do that over email. As you watch the video lecture be sure to take notes – write questions, etc. as I will want your input on line. I hope you will see beyond my video presentation capabilities (or lack of!) to my heart and passion for the youth of this generation. And it is my prayer that you will sense my heart for you as well.

### Course Description:

*"The Servant as Youth Minister" explores the roles and responsibilities of the youth minister. This role is grounded in a theology of youth ministry aided by studies in the formative needs of youth, developmentally and spiritually. Special attention will be given to ministry through facilitating and empowering staff and coordinating a multidimensional youth ministry, program and resource development and selection.*

### Course Objectives:

Students who complete this course with competence will be able to:

1. Provide a framework for youth ministry that is grounded in biblical theology and ecclesiology.
2. Understand developmentally the "critical years" of adolescent from existing theoretical models with a view toward how these years shape one's identity and faith commitments:
  - A. Identify the crucial issues confronting youth in our culture
  - B. Distinguish one's own identity issues as distinct from those of the

target population and establish anchor points for one's own spiritual formation.

3. Identify and critique models and styles of youth ministry:
  - A. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each approach
  - B. Develop a capacity to holistically evaluate an existing youth program.
  - C. Seek designs that integrate youth students into the intergenerational community of faith
4. Acquire the skills necessary to be effective in youth ministry through developing strategies for recruiting, training and motivating lay volunteers.
5. Create habits of reflecting on one's own journey, call, and spiritual formation with places of accountability and with attentiveness to the Spirit of Christ.
6. Gain an acquaintance with resources available for equipping ministry enhancement.

Our course will begin (the flag will drop, the whistle will blow) on Monday, February 11 at 2 p.m. (ET). On that Monday the first module will be accessible within the Course Center.

#### *Modules ....*

A new module will be accessible every 3rd Monday by 2 p.m. (ET). Upon opening each module, you will find detailed instructions pertaining to the particular focus of that week of study. As was stated previously, these modules will consistently be found within the Course Center.

#### **Required Reading:**

The Godbearing Life, Dean and Foster

Starting Right, Dean, Clark, Rahn

Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church, Senter, Black, Clark, Nel

The Return of the Prodigal, Nouwen



#### **Course Requirements:**

Team Participation –

Teams will be assigned to members of the class by the instructor. Each team will have their own team folder where assignments will be posted and assignments carried out. These teams will be announced during the first week of class.

### **Reading questions and reflections reading.**

Guidelines:

- For designated modules you will turn in 1 question that you have created as a result of the assigned readings. (If you are assigned reading from 2 different authors you will turn in a question from EACH of the authors/books.)
- Post your questions in your team folder.
- Respond to 3 questions of your choice. Response is to be limited to 50 words or less.
- Respond to 3 other students answers/responses. Response is to be limited to 50 words or less.

### **Responding to video lectures.**

Guidelines:

Watch the video assigned for the module. In response to the video answer the following questions:

After watching the lecture:

- I felt ...
- I realized ...
- I was confused about ... OR I disagreed with...
- I was challenged by ...
- Your response should be limited to 1-2 sentences for *each* reflection sentence. (I felt...1-2 sentences, I realized...1-2 sentences, etc.)

**The Return of the Prodigal** – Write a 2-3 page reflection on this book.

- Report personal life experiences that the material recalled for you. On your life journey when have you identified with the younger son, the older brother and the Father?
- What are the implications of this book and the reflections it provoked in you for your personal relationships, your spiritual journey, your ministry?
- Evaluation will consist primarily of how well the material was allowed to impact you and inform ministry projections.

**Four View of Youth Ministry and the Church** - After reading the text, Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church, write a 4-5 page paper evaluating the church you are currently serving or the church you grew up in. (If neither of these are feasible for you life, I'll come up with a creative alternative.) Which approach to youth ministry did your church incorporate? Now that you have studied all for approaches, which approach do you most relate to and hope to incorporate in you future or current youth ministry setting? How will you do that? (More details to follow)

### **Personal spiritual formation of the youth worker and Godbearing Practices**

You will write a 3-4 page paper addresses the following:

What are the “godbearing” practices, disciplines, accountable structures, and resources you will use to nourish your soul and keep you attentive to the Holy Spirit.

### **A Model of Ministry**

You will write 6-8 page paper entitled, “Practical Applications of a Theology of Youth Ministry”. In this paper you will include:

- Biblical and Theological Foundation – *What is the Biblical basis and theological grounding from which you do you ministry?*
- Mission statement for your ministry
- Passage of Scripture that captures for you “what it’s all about”
- Theological rationale that defines the purposes that drive your youth ministry
- Model and Philosophy of Youth Ministry
- Define the philosophy of youth ministry
- Describe the model of youth ministry
- Things to consider and respond to:
  - ❑ *Why you believe this model would be effective in this locale?*
  - ❑ *What will be your strategy or reaching the unchurched in a postmodern world?*
  - ❑ *Describe your plan for utilizing volunteers.*
  - ❑ *What are your particular gifts and graces for ministry? Why are you qualified for this position?*

Hannah Kirsch is the reference librarian for the ExL program. Please feel free to contact her at [Hannah\\_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu) or (606) 858-2189 with any reference requests you might have. Examples of reference requests include the following: Requests for information on how to use or access any of the library resources available online (library catalog/journal databases/websites). Requests for books or articles from the B.L. Fisher library.

Requests for photocopies of reference materials such as an entry from the Anchor Bible Dictionary or the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church.

Interlibrary-loan requests for articles available in other libraries.

Requests for information about how to find books, reviews of books, or citations for articles.

Requests for guidelines about how to begin looking for information on your chosen paper topic.

Allow at least a week for requests for materials from the library. ILL requests may take 2-3 weeks.

There are some other people whose work is often behind the scenes but they are essential to the success of this learning experience. Kevin Osborn is the Director of ExL ([ExL\\_Director@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Director@asburyseminary.edu)) and Amy Jo Adams is the ExL Academic Coach ([ExL\\_Coach@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Coach@asburyseminary.edu)). They can assist you with general institutional and ExL questions. Asbury's ExL reference librarian is Hannah Kirsch ([Hannah\\_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu)) and Dorothy James ([Dorothy\\_James@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Dorothy_James@asburyseminary.edu)) is in charge of Inter-Library Loans and can find articles for your work. If you are in need of Technical Support please feel free to

contact Technical Support at ([ExL\\_Support@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Support@asburyseminary.edu)). They can handle all ExL technical issues.